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28 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA Historical Staff

SUBJECT : The On-Going CS Historical Program

1. Plans for the CS historical program after 31 December 1971 can be described only in general and tentative terms at this point. Further consultation with the CSHB and component chiefs will be necessary, as well as with you and Dr. [REDACTED]. Soon after Mr. Cunningham returns to Headquarters on 6 October, we should be able to draw up a more definitive listing of titles and priorities. A factor which complicates the scheduling of future histories is the uncertainty concerning the availability of CS historical writers after 31 December. We are attempting to obtain clarification on this point through the DDP and he with the Executive Director-Comptroller. One of the main questions to be resolved is the feasibility of employing an increased number of annuitants on contract.

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2. The on-going program will be comprised of three categories:

a. Histories in the current program which will be near completion on 31 December. We will urge that work continue on these until they are in publishable form. There may be some slippage in this category since we are still encountering the problem of writers being temporarily or permanently reassigned in the course of their work on the histories. In our tabulation of the carry-over (see attachment), we have not listed these histories which we estimate will be near completion by 31 December.

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b. Histories on which considerable additional work will remain by 31 December, or which will not have been started. These are listed in the attachment and total 74 histories. The difference between this total and our recent estimate of 93 "unpublished histories" at the end of this year is due to our employment of different criteria in the two tabulations, i.e., "in publishable form" vs. "near completion". The 74 titles will be reviewed by the Clandestine Service Historical Board and by individual CS components to determine what portion of this list should actually be carried over into the continuing program. A reduction in the size of the program is indicated since over the past two years (Sept. 1969 to Sept. 1971) during an intensive effort and a considerable investment of manpower a total of 46 histories was published. With a sharp reduction in the number of available writers in prospect, a realistic schedule for 1972 and 1973 will need to be much smaller than we have heretofore carried in the CS program.

c. It is the consensus of the CSHB that the CS has in recent years given too much emphasis to the preparation of organizational and station histories. In the future we would like to see more attention given to papers which cut across station, division and even directorate lines. Possible titles in this category are: "The

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[REDACTED] We plan to refine and expand a list of such titles in our final recommendations.

3. In view of the above, we will very probably recommend that up-dating of already published histories

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be deferred, at least until after 1973. Components have been instructed, however, to continue to assemble and preserve essential source documents in anticipation of eventual up-dating.

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DDP Historical Officer

Attachment:  
As stated

cc: DC/CIA/HS  
Chairman/CSHB

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